

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An electronic write protect apparatus for storage media comprising:

at least one record/play element for reading and writing information to/from a given magnetic storage media;

a pre-existing electronic information signal detection element to read a pre-existing electronic information signal stored on said given magnetic storage media;

a record circuit, adapted to record on said given magnetic storage media, to activate and deactivate said at least one record/play element based on a mere existence of a pre-recorded signal already recorded on said given magnetic storage media, as detected by said pre-existing information signal detection element.

2. (original) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 1, comprising:

a plurality of record/play elements.

3. (original) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one record/play element is attached to a spinning element.

4. (original) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one record/play element is stationary.

5. (previously presented) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 3, wherein:

said pre-existing electronic information signal detection element is attached to said spinning element.

6. (currently amended) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 1, wherein:

said magnetic storage media is a video tape.

7. (currently amended) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 1, wherein:

said magnetic storage media stores digital information.

8. (previously presented) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 1, wherein:

said pre-existing electronic information signal detection element is a record/play element.

9. (previously presented) An electronic write protect method for storage media comprising:

attempting to record information on a given video tape placed in said video cassette player;

detecting a pre-existing video signal from said given video tape;  
and

deactivating a record circuit in said video cassette player based on a mere existence of said pre-existing video signal already recorded on said given video tape.

10. (original) The electronic write protect method for storage media according to claim 9, wherein:

said step of attempting to record information is performed by multiple record/play elements.

11. (original) The electronic write protect method for storage media according to claim 9, wherein:

said step of attempting to record information is performed by a spinning element.

12. (original) The electronic write protect method for storage media according to claim 9, wherein:

said step of attempting to record information is performed by a stationary element.

13. (original) The electronic write protect method for storage media according to claim 11, wherein:

said step of detecting a pre-existing video signal is performed by said spinning element.

14. (original) The electronic write protect method for storage media according to claim 9, wherein:

said video tape stores digital information.

15. (original) The electronic write protect method for storage media according to claim 9, wherein:

said step of detecting a pre-existing video signal is performed by a record/play element.

16. (previously presented) An electronic write protect means for storage media comprising:

means for attempting to record information on a given video tape placed in said video cassette player;

means for detecting a pre-existing video signal from said given video tape; and

means for deactivating a record circuit in said video cassette player based on a mere existence of said pre-existing video signal already recorded on said given video tape.

17. (original) The electronic write protect means for storage media according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for attempting to record information is performed by multiple record/play elements.

18. (original) The electronic write protect means for storage media according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for attempting to record information is performed by a spinning element.

19. (original) The electronic write protect means for storage media according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for attempting to record information is performed by a stationary element.

20. (original) The electronic write protect means for storage media according to claim 18, wherein:

said means for detecting a pre-existing video signal is performed by said spinning element.

21. (original) The electronic write protect means for storage media according to claim 16, wherein:  
said video tape stores digital information.

22. (original) The electronic write protect means for storage media according to claim 16, wherein:  
said means for detecting a pre-existing video signal is performed by a record/play element.